

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JOHANN 01208 181203Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/087 W

-----181208Z 060452 /43

P 181010Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6025

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1208

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINR, SF

SUBJECT: SAG LABOR ADVISOR NICHOLAS E. WIEHAHN

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AFL-CIO

1. RECENTLY APPOINTED ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF LABOR PROFESSOR NICHOLAS (NIC) E. WIEHAHN IS CURRENTLY IN BONN ON A VISIT SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION. HE IS EXPECTED TO PROCEED TO LONDON ON MAY 21 AND TO DEPART FOR THE UNITED STATES ON MAY 28 WHERE HE MAY SPEND UP TO A MONTH BEFORE GOING ON TO TOKYO.

2. WIEHAHN WILL BE ASSISTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSIES IN BONN, LONDON AND WASHINGTON AND TOKYO.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JOHANN 01208 181203Z

HE WILL BE SEEKING TO BUILD UNDERSTANDING AMONG TRADE UNIONISTS IN THE HOST COUNTRIES FOR REFORMS WHICH HE HOPES TO BRING ABOUT IN SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR LEGISLATION AND TO CONSULT WITH ACADEMIC AND GOVERNMENT LABOR EXPERTS ON PLANS WHICH HE HAS FOR IMPROVING THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

3. FOLLOWING WIEHAN'S DEPARTURE FOR BONN, THE MINISTER OF LABOR ANNOUNCED THE FOMATION OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, TO BE CHAIRED BY WIEHAHN, WHICH IS TO PROPOSE CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY LABOR LEGISLATION. (SEE REFTTEL). WIEHAHN INFORMED THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER HE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A STATISTICAL SECTION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WHICH WOULD PUBLISH RELIABLE DATA ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS UNEMPLOYMENT.

4. COMMENT: WIEHAHN IS A LAWYER BY PROFESSION AND ONLY RECENTLY ENTERED THE LABOR FIELD WHERE HE FOUNDED THE INSTITUTE FOR LABOR RELATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA. HE IS A SELF-MADE MAN HAVING BEEN A CLERK WITH SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS FOR ABOUT 14 YEARS. MARRIED TO A GERMAN-DUTCH WIFE, HE HAS TWO SONS 17 AND 21. WHATEVER HE MAY LACK IN THE WAY OF LABOR EXPERTISE HE MAKES UP FOR WITH AN ABUNDANT ENTHUSIASM.

5. HE APPEARS TO BE COMMITTED TO MOVING GFROM DISCRIMINATION TO NON-DISCRIMINATION IN THE FIELD OF LABOR LEGISLATION. WHILE HE ADVOCATES THE PRINCIPALS OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM, HE IS OPPOSED TO CRAFT TRADE UNIONS AND SEEMS FASCINATED BY THE JAPANESE MODEL OF FACTORY BASED UNIONS. ESTABLISHED TRADE UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND MANAGEMENT ARE UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERENED ABOUT THE LATTER PREFERENCE WHILE BLACK TRADE TRADE UNION LEADERS ARE UNCETAIN WHAT CHANGES WILL IN FACT BE INTRODUCED FOR THE BENEFIT OF BLACK WORKERS S A RESULT OF WIEHAHN'S EFFORTS.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JOHANN 01208 181203Z

KIRBY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR LAW, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN01208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770176-1070
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770545/aaaabmlp.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47dde390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2474195
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAG LABOR ADVISOR NICHOLAS E. WIEHAHN DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AFL-CIO
TAGS: ELAB, PINR, SF, GE, UK, US, JA, (WIEHAHN, NICHOLAS E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47dde390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009